

To: R7 Daily Digest INBOX[R7_Daily_Digest_INBOX@epa.gov]
From: Bryan, David
Sent: Tue 11/17/2015 10:20:10 PM
Subject: Correction: OPA Daily Digest – 11/17/15

OPA Daily Digest – 11/17/15

Upcoming EPA Region 7 Events by Division

New additions noted with an asterisk

RA:

11/17-18/15 - Southeast Missouri Mining Tour, Farmington, Mo. Contact: Greg Bach, 7291

11/18/15 - Stakeholder Meeting with Mayor Terry Briggs, Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Curtis Carey, 7506

11/19/15 - Meeting with Mike Fulton, Pattonville School District Superintendent, Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

11/30/15 - Process Excellence Improvement Training, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Jonathan Cooper, 7287

12/8-9/15 - Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

12/14/15 - Courtesy Visit with Rob Manes and John Cougher, The Nature Conservancy, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

DRA:

11/17-18/15 - Executive Management Council Meeting, Washington D.C. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

12/8-9/15 - Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

12/14/15 - Courtesy Visit with Rob Manes and John Cougher, The Nature Conservancy, Regional Office.
Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

11/17-18/15 – Corrective Action Framework meeting with John Deere, Ankeny, Iowa. Contact: Pat Murrow, 7627

11/18-19/15 – Pollution Prevention (P2) Roundtable Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Jim Callier, 7646

11/20/15 – Kansas Climate and Energy Project Clean Power Plan Stakeholder Meeting, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Mark Smith, 7876

12/3/15 – Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383

12/3/15 – Meet with Iowa Department of Natural Resources Air Quality Bureau and observe Kaizen event, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Heather Hamilton, 7039

12/7/15 – Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant exercise, Burlington, Kan. Contact: Chuck Hooper, 7271

12/8-10/15 – 2015 National Capacity Development and Operator Certification Workshop with EPA and states, Dallas, Tex. Contact: Bob Dunlevy, 7798

12/10/15 - Mid-America Regional Council's Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383

12/10-12/15 – U.S. Department of Agriculture Northern Plains Regional Climate Hub and Department of the Interior Joint Stakeholders Committee Meeting, Fort Collins, Colo. Contact: Amy Shields, 7396

12/11/15 – Missouri Emergency Response Commission meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Terri Blunk, 7013

12/16/15 – E.O. 13650 Federal Inspector training, EPA Regional Office, Lenexa, Kan. Contact: George Hess, 7540

CNSL

None

ECO

11/18- 19/15 – MDNR Integrated Compliance Information System – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (ICIS-NPDES) HQ Training, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Neal Gilbert, 7985

12/1/2015 – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Ks. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

12/2/2015 – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Ks. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

12/14/2015 – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Ks. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

12/18/2015 – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Ks. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

1/6/2016 – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Ks. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

1/11/2016 – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Ks. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

ENST

11/16-20/15 – Quality Assurance Training at Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Diane Harris, 7258

PLMG

11/21/15- 39th Street Corridor Redevelopment public involvement meeting at Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council Center, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: David Doyle, 7667.

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

11/16-20/15 – Participating in the National Remediation Review Board in Portland, Ore. Contact: Jeff Field, 7548.

12/3/15 – FEMA Training and Exercise Planning meeting with regional agency partners, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: David Williams, 7625.

WWPD

11/17-18/15 – Iowa Department of Natural Resources Annual Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Review, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Gabrielle Thompson, 7569

11/18-19/15 – Kansas Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas, Manhattan, Kan. Contacts: Damon Frizzell, 7560, Chrislyn Johnson, 7984

12/8-10/15 – 2015 National Capacity Development and Operator Certification Workshop with EPA and states, Dallas, Tex. Contact: Bob Dunlevy, 7798

12/10-12/15 – U.S. Department of Agriculture Northern Plains Regional Climate Hub and Department of the Interior Joint Stakeholders Committee Meeting, Fort Collins, Colo. Contact: Amy Shields, 7396

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Jason Smith – 11/10/15 – Letter – Lake Forest Estates Community Association in St. Genevieve County concerns about NPDES permits. Due: 11/25/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Ann Wagner – 11/9/15 – Letter – Questions about West Lake Landfill site. Due: 11/24/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Deb Fischer – 11/5/15 – Letter – Questions about Region 7 investigations on enforcement of lead-based paint regulations in Nebraska. Due: 11/19/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

Rep. Margo McNeil – 10/21/15 – Email – Follow-up questions from state legislator phone briefing related to West Lake Landfill Superfund Site. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Press Inquiries:

KIOS 91.5, Omaha Public Radio – Cheril Lee – 10/19/15 – Requests interview about the newly award Environmental Justice Small Grant to Together Incorporated of Metropolitan Omaha. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Korean Broadcasting System – Bae Rhee – 10/29/15 – Requesting interview with Region 7 about the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Curtis Carey, 7506 (open)

Joplin Globe – Allie Hinga – 11/12/15 – Questions about mine waste disposal in Newton County, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

Des Moines Register – Donnelle Eller – 11/16/15 – Questions regarding Janet McCabe blog on biomass. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Jackson (Miss.) Northside Sun – Anthony Warren – 11/17/15 – Questions about land application of biosolids. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Environmental Stories:

Student Life, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. - Wash. U. filmmaker brings attention to STL radioactive waste - 11/15/15 - The film, which played at the Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival on Sunday, examines the consequences of the U.S. government's decision to enlist the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works of St. Louis to refine uranium. <http://www.studlife.com/cadenza/film-cadenza/2015/11/15/wash-u-filmmaker-brings-attention-to-stl-radioactive-waste/>

Des Moines Register - Iowa joins fight against EPA's 'overreaching' water rule - 11/17/15 - Gov. Terry Branstad said Tuesday Iowa will join 13 other states challenging a federal rule designed to protect smaller streams, tributaries and wetlands, saying the regulations are misguided and would harm farmers, landowners and small businesses. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/2015/11/17/iowa-joins-fight-against-epas-overreaching-water-rule/75938240/>

WHO Channel 13 Des Moines - Fuel Standard to be Released Soon - 11/17/15 - There are only two weeks left for the EPA to release final rules for Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), mandated by U.S. courts. The 2014 requirements are a year late and according to the Renewable Fuels Association's Jeff Cooper, that's left a lot of businesses in the dark. <http://whotv.com/2015/11/17/fuel-standard-to-be-released-soon/>

KIMT Channel 3 Mason City, Iowa - EPA announces national plan against radon - 11/16/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency is announcing a collaboration with several groups including the American Lung Association, the American Association of Radon and many more. In Iowa, the need for homeowners to test for radon is made even more important since the state's foundation produces more than average radon levels. <http://kimt.com/2015/11/16/epa-announces-national-plan-against-radon/>

The Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa - University of Iowa ramps up use of biomass fuel - 11/16/15 - Halfway into the University of Iowa's 10-year sustainability initiative, officials say it has reached its progress target and remains on track to achieve 40 percent renewable energy consumption by 2020. <http://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/education/higher-education/university-of-iowa-ramps-up-use-of-biomass-fuel-20151116>

Delta Farm Press - Dow AgroSciences will work to restore Sulfoxaflo registrations - 11/16/15 - Dow AgroSciences says it expects EPA will "readily and thoroughly" address the concerns that have led to a cancellation notice for Transform and other Sulfoxaflo-containing products extensively used by cotton and grain sorghum producers. <http://deltafarmpress.com/cotton/dow-agrosciences-will-work-restore-sulfoxaflo-registrations>

Northeast Missouri News - Kahoka Reviews Sewer Problems-Photos and Videos - 11/17/15 - Much of Kahoka's sanitary sewer system was installed as a public works program following the Great Depression, according to Mayor Jerry Webber. As the system ages, it becomes more prone to inflow and infiltration (I&I), which means additional fresh water enters the system. In heavy rains, it causes the sanitary sewer system to overflow and discharge untreated waste into the environment. <http://nemonews.net/2015/11/17/kahoka-reviews-sewer-problems-photos-videos/>

Wichita Eagle - Sediment dredging to begin on federal reservoir near Wolf Creek plant - 11/17/15 - It has the consistency of thin grease mixed with slimy mud and smells rank. And the Kansas Water Office is sinking an estimated \$20 million into removing about 3 million cubic yards of the sediment from the bottom of John Redmond Reservoir. The process will take through the end of 2016. <http://www.kansas.com/sports/outdoors/article45166872.html>

Agri-Pulse (opinion): Senator Joni Ernst says EPA's WOTUS 'ill-conceived' - 11/17/15 - Under the guise of protecting clean water, EPA's latest power grab threatens the very livelihood of my fellow Iowans and is an economic assault on small businesses, manufacturing and agriculture. <http://www.agri-pulse.com/Opinion-Senator-Joni-Ernst-says-EPA-s-WOTUS-ill-conceived-11162015.asp>

Des Moines Register - Bakken pipeline would help farmers, analyst says - 11/17/15 - Increased railroad shipments of North Dakota crude oil have made it more difficult to ship grain by rail, which is costing farmers money in the Upper Midwest. Analyst Elaine Kub testified the construction of oil pipelines such as the proposed Bakken pipeline through Iowa would help ease rail traffic congestion. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2015/11/17/bakken-pipeline-would-help-farmers-analyst-says/75921442/>

Utility DIVE - Sierra Club's Ameren shareholder resolution seeks 30% renewables by 2030 - 11/17/15 - A resolution proposed by Ameren Missouri shareholder the Missouri Sierra Club calls on the investor-owned utility (IOU) to move from its current renewable energy generation of about 1% to 30% by 2030, surpassing the state's 15% renewables by 2021 mandate. <http://www.utilitydive.com/news/sierra-clubs-ameren-shareholder-resolution-seeks-30-renewables-by-2030/409297/>

Kansas City Journal - KCP&L proposes solar farm in Jackson County - 11/17/15 - Kansas City Power & Light Co. has filed an application with the Missouri Public Service Commission to build a solar power generation facility in southeast Jackson County. <http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/news/2015/11/17/kcp-l-proposes-solar-farm-in-jackson-county.html>

Associated Press - EPA intends tougher downwind air-pollution rule in 23 states - 11/17/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency wants to set tougher new limits on smokestack emissions from nearly two dozen states that burden downwind areas with air pollution from power plants they can't control. http://www.stltoday.com/news/epa-intends-tougher-downwind-air-pollution-rule-in-states/article_41f5c6cf-

Wall Street Journal (blog) - The Environmental Failure of 'Green' Schools - 11/17/15 - In the name of energy efficiency, school districts across the country are building new schools to "green" building standards that promoters promise will deliver huge energy savings. The most prominent system, known as LEED for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, promises energy savings and environmental benefit. The record, however, is different. <http://blogs.wsj.com/experts/2015/11/17/the-environmental-failure-of-green-schools/>

Midwest Energy News - Tallest U.S. wind tower under construction in Iowa - 11/16/15 - By early 2016, the country's tallest onshore wind-turbine tower — and one of only a very few made from concrete rather than steel — will be operating on a wind farm in southwestern Iowa, according to an announcement today by MidAmerican Energy. <http://midwestenergynews.com/2015/11/16/tallest-u-s-wind-tower-under-construction-in-iowa/>

Ethanol Producer Magazine - RFS in the limelight - 11/17/15 - Bob Dinneen presents his annual in and out list in a column that appears in the December issue of EPM. 2015 has been a historic year for the biofuels industry, particularly in terms of the renewable fuel standard. <http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/12760/rfs-in-the-limelight>

Renewable Fuels Association - EPA's Final RVO Rule and the Myth of Falling Gasoline Demand - 11/16/15 - One of the oil industry's favorite talking points in its campaign to repeal the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) is the argument that "gasoline demand is falling." But there's one little problem with this weary storyline: it simply isn't true. Gasoline demand has actually been rising steadily since 2012, hitting historically high levels this past summer. <http://www.ethanolrfa.org/2015/11/epas-final-rvo-rule-and-the-myth-of-falling-gasoline-demand/>

Ethanol Producer Magazine - Probing the FSMA rule - 11/16/15 - The final rule for the Food Safety Modernization Act came out in September, starting the clock for compliance deadlines that phase in the comprehensive new rule. <http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/12753/probing-the-fsma-rule>

Washington Examiner - EPA wraps up climate plan road show - 11/17/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency brings its climate-rule road show to Washington this week, seeking to hear from states and others on the controversial plan it would impose if states don't comply with its rules cutting carbon emissions from power plants. <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epa-wraps-up-climate-plan-road-show/article/2576491>

Denver Post - EPA road tests Obama climate change plan in Denver before summit - 11/16/15 - Two weeks before the international climate summit in Paris, the Obama administration is road-testing its

Clean Power Plan to cut emissions of greenhouse gases — and getting an earful from all sides in Denver.
http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_29124291/epa-road-tests-obama-climate-change-plan-denver

Denver Business Journal - Denver hearings on EPA's Clean Power Plan draw a crowd - 11/16/15 -
Some say the plan will be expensive to implement, as other energy sources are pressed into service. Others say there will be large savings on the other side of the equation, in terms of reduced health care costs and days lost from work due to respiratory problems linked to air pollution.
http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/blog/earth_to_power/2015/11/denver-hearings-on-epas-clean-power-plan-draw-a.html

Biomass Magazine - EPA addresses biomass in Clean Power Plan, plans workshop - 11/16/15 -
Janet McCabe, U.S. EPA acting assistant administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation, has published a blog that addresses the potential role of biomass in the Clean Power Plan, and announced that the EPA will hold a workshop on the topic early next year. <http://biomassmagazine.com/articles/12564/epa-addresses-biomass-in-clean-power-plan-plans-workshop>

The Hill - Greens push senators to oppose power plant resolutions - 11/16/15 - Environmental groups and climate change activists are urging senators to oppose Republican efforts to dismantle key Obama climate regulations. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/260320-greens-push-senators-to-oppose-power-plant-resolutions>

Center for American Progress - Protecting Public Health and Growing the Economy - 11/16/15 -
Today, the Clean Air Act and its amendments stand as proof that smart environmental policy can protect public health and the environment while allowing industry the space to innovate and expand.
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/report/2015/11/16/125535/protecting-public-health-and-growing-the-economy/>

Washington Examiner - McConnell schedules votes against EPA climate rules - 11/16/15 - Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Monday placed resolutions blocking President Obama's climate change agenda on the chamber's calendar, meaning they could come up for a vote as early as this week.
<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/mcconnell-schedules-votes-against-epa-climate-rules/article/2576492>

The Hill - Senate tees up votes against Obama's climate rules - 11/16/15 - The Senate will vote as early as this week to block President Obama's climate change rules for power plants. The resolutions are written under the Congressional Review Act, a rarely-used law that gives Congress a streamlined process for blocking regulations. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/260346-senate-tees-up-votes-against-obamas-climate-rules>

RTO Insider - McCarthy Defends CPP, Asks for Continued Engagement - 11/16/15 - Calling the CPP the “biggest single step America has taken to deal with climate change and carbon pollution,” McCarthy told her National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners’ annual meeting keynote audience she fully expects the plan to be implemented. <http://www.rtoinsider.com/epa-mccarthy-naruc-cpp-19689/>

BNR - Senate Urged to Beat Back EPA Carbon Rule Attacks - 11/17/15 - More than 110 environmental advocacy groups Nov. 16 urged the Senate not to support two resolutions that would nullify the centerpieces of President Barack Obama’s efforts to combat climate change. <http://www.bna.com/senate-urged-beat-n57982063619/>

BNR - EPA Authority on Affirmative Defense Rule Questioned - 11/17/15 - Various power industry organizations plan to argue before a federal appeals court that the Environmental Protection Agency lacked authority under the Clean Air Act to require states to remove civil penalty shields from their pollution plans. <http://www.bna.com/epa-authority-affirmative-n57982063620/>

The Hill - EPA chief: ‘we will prevail’ in power plant lawsuits - 11/17/15 - The Obama administration’s top environmental regulator predicted new, broad power plant regulations will hold up despite a series of lawsuits against them. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/260415-epa-chief-we-will-prevail-in-power-plant-lawsuits>

Climate Progress - The Mainstream Environmental Movement Is Mostly White. Here’s How To Change That - 11/17/15 - In the coming years, climate change will multiply environmental risks, driving up the price of food while intensifying devastating storms. Communities of color are among the most vulnerable to climate change and other environmental health threats in the United States. <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/11/17/3721693/build-a-better-environmental-movement/>

Associated Press - Manure from Millions of Hogs Fuels Natural Gas Project - 11/16/15 - One recipe for renewable natural gas goes: Place manure from about 2 million hogs in lagoons, cover them with an impermeable material and let it bake until gas from the manure rises. Then, use special equipment to clean the gas of its impurities and ship the finished product out. <http://www.agweb.com/article/manure-from-millions-of-hogs-fuels-natural-gas-project--naa-associated-press/>

RTO Insider - Utilities, Investors see Green in Clean Power Plan, Discount Litigation Risk - 11/16/15 - New carbon emission regulations may face an uncertain future in the courts, but investors and utility executives said last week it won’t upset the long-term shift away from coal-fired generation and toward increased efficiency. <http://www.rtoinsider.com/eei-clean-power-plan-19679/>

Scientific American - Meeting a Global Carbon Limit Is Cheaper Than Avoiding One - 11/17/15 - Yet some critics have declared that the so-called 2° C target is impossible, saying we cannot deploy the technologies needed to decarbonize the economy in time. But we can. The obstacle is not a physical one—it is one of political and societal will. <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/meeting-a-global-carbon-limit-is-cheaper-than-avoiding-one/>

Watchdog Arena - Clean Power Plan just the tip of the iceberg of 'global change' agenda - 11/16/15 - Mining deeper into the origins of the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan should draw concern for those both in and outside of coal country. <http://watchdog.org/247348/clean-power-plan-global-change/>

Phys.org - The value of biodiversity is particularly high in poor environmental conditions - 11/17/15 - It goes without saying that diversity is better than monotony. But what difference does the presence of one, six or twelve tree, bird or bacterial species make to an ecosystem and its ongoing processes? <http://phys.org/news/2015-11-biodiversity-high-poor-environmental-conditions.html>